

**Rules of Engagement:**  
**How did we React to the Attack?**  
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We are at War. We are defending America. Since they can bring this war here, we become the warriors. We become the hunted as well as the hunter. So put the candle out for a few. Let the wind wave the flag - it'll be there when you get back. While they are digging through the rubble in New York and Washington, we have to dig through our own.

We'll start by going back to time zero: Black Tuesday - whenever you found out. We were attacked - all of us. But in order to prepare for the next attack, let's take a look at how the first attack hit us - personally.

Many of us (outside Lower Manhattan) simply stayed glued to the television. Many others were at work. But was there something you were scrambling to do? Things you might have been looking for - kicking yourself for not being able to locate someone or something?

Think about this for a second. This is the first step to building a better defense plan. It can happen again. It could be near you - or on the television.

Here's my story: My wife had phoned in the report right when it happened. She was due on a flight from Baltimore to Las Vegas. After quickly deciding she had to drive home about 2,800 miles, we checked to make sure our personal communications were ready for a week of contact.

- Had to run to an electronic store later that day for an ac cell phone adapter.

My next impulse was to call family members to check on conditions. Our family is spread out nationwide, and travels often. Once I had my father on the line, he verified that other members of the family were checking in as well. This was not a planned response - it was a spontaneous reaction to a nation under attack. But:

- Had to quickly begin taking notes for contact information with other family members.

Later that day, my local ISP went offline due to a billing error.

- Had backup account in use until matter was cleared up.

Here out West, many people rightly figured the Pacific coast was due for an attack as well. For that reason, many people went into a 'failsafe' mode. I was stationary manning Sierra Times, but had to make preparations to relocate - if the need arose.

- Emergency items were scattered in several locations around the home.
- Had to fill the car with gas - along with everyone else that day.

My 'job' is here. On Black Tuesday, we also found updating Sierra Times impossible for a short time.

· Disk space was full

See where I'm going? What did you go through? I know just from being out and about that I was not the only person making plans for the worst. Getting things in order. Suddenly, all priorities changed. People are still making plans. Guns and ammo sales are through the roof right now. Lessons learned from Black Tuesday.

Each of us must think about what happened to us personally that day, and the things we were not ready for. Take steps to fix these issues first. These are your priorities.

In my case:

- 1) All immediate family members contact information now in wallet
- 2) ISP accounts balances are current (including backups)
- 3) 'bug out' kit in one place - always accessible
- 4) sever space checked nightly

What about in your case? Remember: We are going to war, and this could happen again. Looking at the fallout, we can't afford to panic. We have to be able to respond - not react. The key word here is preparedness.

Tomorrow: Sizing up the Enemy

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